Launch Vehicle (GSLV). Promotional efforts are also undertaken through participation in appropriate exhibitions from time to time in order to create greater awareness of our launch capability among potential customers.

(b) In 2004-05, ISRO through contracts made by Antrix with foreign customers received payments amounting to Rs. 10.54 Crores towards launch services on PSLV and Rs. 261 Crores for mission support services;

(c) USA, Germany, France, Russia, Japan Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Algeria, Venezuela, UAE and Sudan have evinced interest in using services of CARTOSAT.

**Bridging the gap between rural and urban areas through Satellites**

2647. SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what way CARTOSAT, INSAT and EDUSAT are meeting the societal needs of the country;

(b) whether there are any plans before Government to bridge the digital divide between the people living in rural areas and urban areas with the help of satellites; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) CARTOSAT-1 provides data for generating three dimensional maps that help in planning urban and rural development, land, water resources management, disaster assessment, relief planning and management, INSAT satellites are used for communications, broadcasting, meteorological services, disaster management support, Tele-medicine, Training & Development Communication. EDUSAT provides connectivity for schools, colleges higher levels of education to support formal and non-formal education including developmental communications.

(b) and (c) Communication satellites such as INSAT and EDUSAT provide the means for bridging the digital divide. Tele-medicine and

Tele-education are two such schemes making use of digital connectivity to reach urban facilities to rural areas. Through tele-medicine, high quality medical care is being extended to rural and remote areas by transmitting the patient data to the specialists in hospitals located in metros and providing video consultancy. The services of super specialists are made available to patients in remote parts of the country in North East region, central parts of India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, ect. Similarly through tele-educations, high quality education available in urban schools and colleges is made accessible to children in remote parts of the country, especially in villages.

**Implementing Rangarajan Commission Recommendations**

2648. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up eight Special Technical Committees to draw roadmap for implementing the Rangarajan Commission recommendations, seeking to strengthen the statistical system and data collection in the country;

(b) if so, whether these Committees would expedite the implementation of the remaining 389 recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission;

(c) if so, the total recommendations made and how many recommendations have so far been considered; and

(d) by what time these Committees are likely to implement the plans of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has constituted 8 internal Technical Committees to prepare base papers for delineating roadmaps for the implementation of some recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission.

(b) to (d) The Technical Committees are required to suggest roadmaps in respect of 166 identified recommendations. The responsibility of implementing the recommendations lies with the Ministries and